

# Town Manager's Office Town of Mansfield

Date: September 15, 2015  
Re: Town Manager's Report

---

Below please find a report regarding various items of interest to the Town Council, staff and the community:

## **Council Business**

- *Special Meeting on NextGenCT Impact Study* – At 6:30 PM in advance of the regular meeting on September 28, 2015, we will hold a special meeting to answer any remaining questions or comments from the Town Council concerning the impact study for UCONN's NextGenCT initiative. The team of Lee Huang and Ethan Conner-Ross from Econsult will participate in the meeting by phone.

## **Major Projects and Initiatives**

- *Community Playground* – The Mansfield Community Playground Committee is looking for volunteers to help construct the Mansfield Community Playground on Saturday, October 10, and Sunday, October 11, 2015. The community build is scheduled to take place from 8 AM to 4 PM on both days, with lunch provided to full-day volunteers. Interested persons may sign up at <http://www.mansfieldcommunityplayground.org/lendahand.html>. While volunteers of all skill levels are needed, the committee is seeking persons with experience in construction and other related trades. The committee is tentatively planning a ribbon cutting ceremony for October 31, 2015.
- *Eversource Interstate Reliability Project* – All major construction on the project is complete. Project crews will continue to be in the right-of-way in some areas, conducting remaining restoration activities. We expect to complete restoration by the end of fall 2015. Residents can also call 1-866-99NEEWS (1-866-996-3397) or email [NEEWS@NU.com](mailto:NEEWS@NU.com) for more information.

## **Department Reports**

- Fire Department
  - *AFG Grant received:* The Fire Department has received a U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) to replace fire hose and firefighting nozzles. The amount of the award is \$83,467 with a 5% match from the town of \$4,173, for a total of \$87,640.
  - *Wildfire Deployment* - One of Mansfield's Firefighters has been selected as a member of a team of firefighters from Connecticut to be deployed to the Western United States to fight wildfires. The firefighter's deployment will last two weeks.
- Emergency Management
  - *FEMA Grant:* Emergency Management was recently awarded a \$70,757.69 grant from FEMA for the Emergency Management Disaster Recovery effort the Town completed for the January 26-28, 2015 Severe Winter Storm. In addition to snow removal, several town buildings required emergency snow and ice dam removal from the roof areas.
- Planning and Development
  - *Mansfield Tomorrow:* Last week the Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously adopted the Mansfield Tomorrow Plan of Conservation and Development. The Commission made numerous revisions to the plan based on feedback received during the public hearing process. The new plan will be effective October 8, 2015. The next step in the process will be a rewrite of zoning and subdivision regulations to implement recommendations of the POCD. An initial draft of new regulations is expected to be available for review by the Planning and Zoning Commission and Zoning Focus Group in October.
  - *Passing of Peter Plante:* Last month we received the sad news that Peter Plante had passed away unexpectedly. Peter was an extremely dedicated and engaged resident, serving as a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission for 14 years in addition to his service as a member of the Republican Town Committee. Peter is survived by his wife Doryann, his brother Robert and sister-in-law Ophelia, his daughter Regina, son-in-law Cory, son Paul, daughter-in-law

Katie and three grandchildren, Olivia, Addison and Jase. Peter will be greatly missed. Donations can be made to the American Diabetes Association in Peter's memory.

- **Public Works**

- *RT. 275 Bridge Replacement:* CT DOT is closing Route 275 on Monday, September 21, 2015 for the replacement of the Bridge No. 02866 which carries Rte. 275 over Willimantic River in the Towns of Coventry and Mansfield. The old bridge will be demolished and a new bridge constructed. A detour will be posted using Route 31 South to Route 32 East from the Coventry side and Route 32 West to Route 31 North from the Mansfield side. The bridge is anticipated to reopen on November 30, 2015.
- *Ravine Road Neighborhood Meeting:* Due to safety concerns, the Mansfield Traffic Authority took action in March 2015 to close Ravine Road from Bone Mill Road to #164 Ravine Road to vehicular traffic. The Traffic Authority is inviting interested persons to attend a public informational meeting to be held on October 1, 2015 at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers of Town Hall. During this session, staff will provide a summary of the safety concerns that we have observed on Ravine Road, potential options for mitigating these safety concerns and an opportunity for interested parties to provide feedback on existing issues and concerns. If residents are unable to attend, comments and concerns may be submitted via e-mail or letter to the Public Works Department at [PublicWorks@mansfieldct.org](mailto:PublicWorks@mansfieldct.org) or to Town Hall.

- **Town Clerk**

- *Petition to Establish Fracking Waste Ordinance:* On September 14, 2015, the Town Clerk received a petition to initiate an Ordinance Regarding the Storage, Disposal or Use of Fracking Waste or Any Derivative Thereof in the Town of Mansfield. Staff is in the process of verifying the names against the most current registry list to see if the 200 qualified names threshold has been reached. If the petition is certified by the Town Clerk it will be listed as an item of business on the September 28, 2015 Town Council agenda.
- *Registrar of Voters:* Andrea Epling resigned as Democratic Registrar of voters, effective August 31, 2015. According to statute, her deputy, Jeanne Mogayzel, became the Democratic registrar. Ms. Mogayzel appointed Andrea Epling as her deputy. Beverly Miela remains the Republican Registrar of Voters.

### **Upcoming Events**

- *Storrs Farmers Market* – Storrs Farmers Market is in its 21<sup>st</sup> season. The Market is open from 3:00 to 6:00PM every Saturday through November 22<sup>nd</sup> on the front lawn of the Beck Municipal Building (Town Hall). Everything sold at Storrs Farmers Market is grown or produced in Connecticut. Visit [www.storrsfarmersmarket.org](http://www.storrsfarmersmarket.org) for more information and to sign up for weekly emails from the Market.
- *Celebrate Mansfield Festival* - The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrate Mansfield Festival will be held this Sunday, Sept. 20 from noon to 4:00 PM on the Mansfield Town Square, where nearly 100 Mansfield businesses and organizations will host activity booths featuring hands-on fun for all ages. Mansfield restaurants will have a wide variety of food available for purchase, or visitors can take a break at one of the many restaurants found throughout Downtown Storrs. Musical entertainment will include performances by Kidsville Kuckoo Revue, Tuesday Saints, and Pearl and the Beard. To accommodate the event, additional road closures will include Dog Lane from Storrs Road to Royce Circle (near Husky Pizza in 9 Dog Lane); Royce Circle from Dog Lane (near UConn Co-op Bookstore at Storrs Center in 1 Royce Circle) to Wilbur Cross Way; and Bolton Road Ext. These streets will be closed beginning at 7:00 AM until approximately 7:00 PM on Sunday, September 20. Charles Smith Way and Wilbur Cross Way will be closed from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM to accommodate the Celebrate Mansfield Festival Parade. Parade participants will gather at the Storrs Post Office, and I will provide the Town Council with more detailed information for those planning to march. Parking for the Celebrate Mansfield Festival will be available in the E. O. Smith High School parking lots, the Mansfield Town Hall parking lots and in the Storrs Center parking garage, which will be free for the day. Following the Parade, on-street parking will be available on Storrs Road. For more information about this free community event, please visit [downtownstorrsfestival.org](http://downtownstorrsfestival.org) or call the Mansfield Downtown Partnership office (860.429.2740).

**Upcoming Meetings\***

- Cemetery Committee, September 16, 2015, 3:30 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Conservation Commission, September 16, 2015, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Committee on Committees, September 18, 2015, 8:10 AM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Celebrate Mansfield Festival, September 20, 2015, 12:00 – 4:00 PM, Town Square.
- Personnel Committee, 21, 2015, 4:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Planning and Zoning Commission, September 21, 2015, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Traffic Authority, September 22, 2015, 10:30 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Economic Development Commission, September 24, 2015, 5:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Playground Committee, September 24, 2015, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, September 28, 2015, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

*\*Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the [Town Calendar](#) or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 860-429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*